

Friends of Rouge Park - Meeting Minutes - Nov.17, 2015

Attendance (23 attendees): Paula Trilety-trustee, Sally Petrella-president, Paul Stark-secretary, LaDon Davis (Councilman Leland), Chester Marvin (FOTR)-treasurer, Tamara Dyson, Roger Cheek-trustee, Peggy Dankhart, Tim Kristen, Tom McNulty (DAM)-membership, Arthur Edge-vice president, Lorraine Harris, Sam Shopinski (Nat'l Kidney Foundation), Roxie Wilson (DOI Vista intern), Alan Van Kerckove, Donna Hall, Julianna Fulton (Detroit GSD), Mike Jacobs (Detroit GSD), Garrett Dempsey (Sierra Club), Norm Cox (Greenways Collaborative), Ray Solomon (Dept. of Neighborhoods), Roger Corpalongo, Keywana McCadney.

Minutes from October were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: (Chester Marvin) Income: Received three memberships (two individual and one organizational) for a total of \$145. Expenses: stamps for \$14. Balance: \$2986.83.

Membership Report: (Tom McNulty) 30 individual and family memberships and seven organizational memberships.

President's Report

1. Ray Solomon Jr. is replacing Marshall Bullock at the City's Department of Neighborhoods.
2. On Nov. 3, Dixon 6th graders in the Our Land program worked on removing invasive plants on the Stone Bridge trail. This Wayne County grant that pays for this will be available to work in the Prairie next year.
3. Christ the King wants \$13,000 in order to provide FORP with a staff person. We can't afford it.
4. The Student Conservation Association is asking us for letter of support for their environmental grant.
5. The YMCA's Let's Move Outside+program is looking for a representative from FORP. Julianna agreed to act as our rep. for now.

Buffalo Soldiers Report

Buffalo Soldiers new 5 yr. contract with the city has been approved so FORP no longer needs to be their fiduciary. Students are coming to visit the barn this Saturday at 3pm.

Board Elections All current board members were re-elected to the same positions, except that Roger Cheek and Tom McNulty switched positions (membership chair and trustee).

Old Business

1. Update from the city (Mike Jacobs & Juliana Fulton). Julianna presented a mowing plan that greatly reducing the mowing of the non-recreational areas, and focusing on mowing along the paved paths and road edges. She passed around a map showing the no-mow and limited mow areas and discussed concerns (West Parkway/Dover, spotted knapweed management).
2. The Tireman Swale and Constance Project Update (no one from DWSD attended). They began seeding the Tireman Swale this week. The Constance Project will involve creating a deep swale running from Parkland St. to Outer Drive. DWSD would build two bridges for the Prairie Pathway.
3. Winter Programming (Roxie Wilson-DOI Vista intern). She distributed a hand-out of ideas collected from a neighborhood survey of desirable activities for the park. She is working on a tree lighting ceremony and a caroling night with a high school band, snowman-making, and snowball throwing contest. She presented an overview of spring, summer and fall ideas as well.
4. MDHHS/National Kidney Foundation/Greenways Collaborative (Norm Cox and Sam Shopinski) are working on funding for signage and benches. Everything is in the early stages, no concrete plans so far.
5. Deer Signs update. (Dustin Campbell did not attend). No report.

New Business

1. Scout Hollow (Garrett Dempsey-Sierra Club). A camping program for Rouge Park is being proposed. The funding would pay to build the infrastructure and train people to lead camping trips with youth. The program would include making camping equipment available as well. The proposal is requesting \$500,000 for infrastructure improvements and 3 yrs. staff and programming.
2. A Rouge Park Clean-up will be held this Saturday, Nov. 21 at 9am at Joy & Spinoza.

Meeting adjourned 7:20pm